

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hardened voyage data recorder includes two subsystems: a removable non-volatile memory and a base containing electronics and firmware for communicating with data sensing systems and for accessing the memory. According to the invention, the memory is protected in a "boiler" and the electronics includes an ETHERNET interface for connecting to shipboard data acquisition devices. The firmware is preferably configured via web pages. A communications protocol for communicating with the recorder is also disclosed.